

LANSINGMI.GOV/CORONAVIRUS



Andy Schor, Mayor

CITY OF LANSING COVID-19 FAQ'S

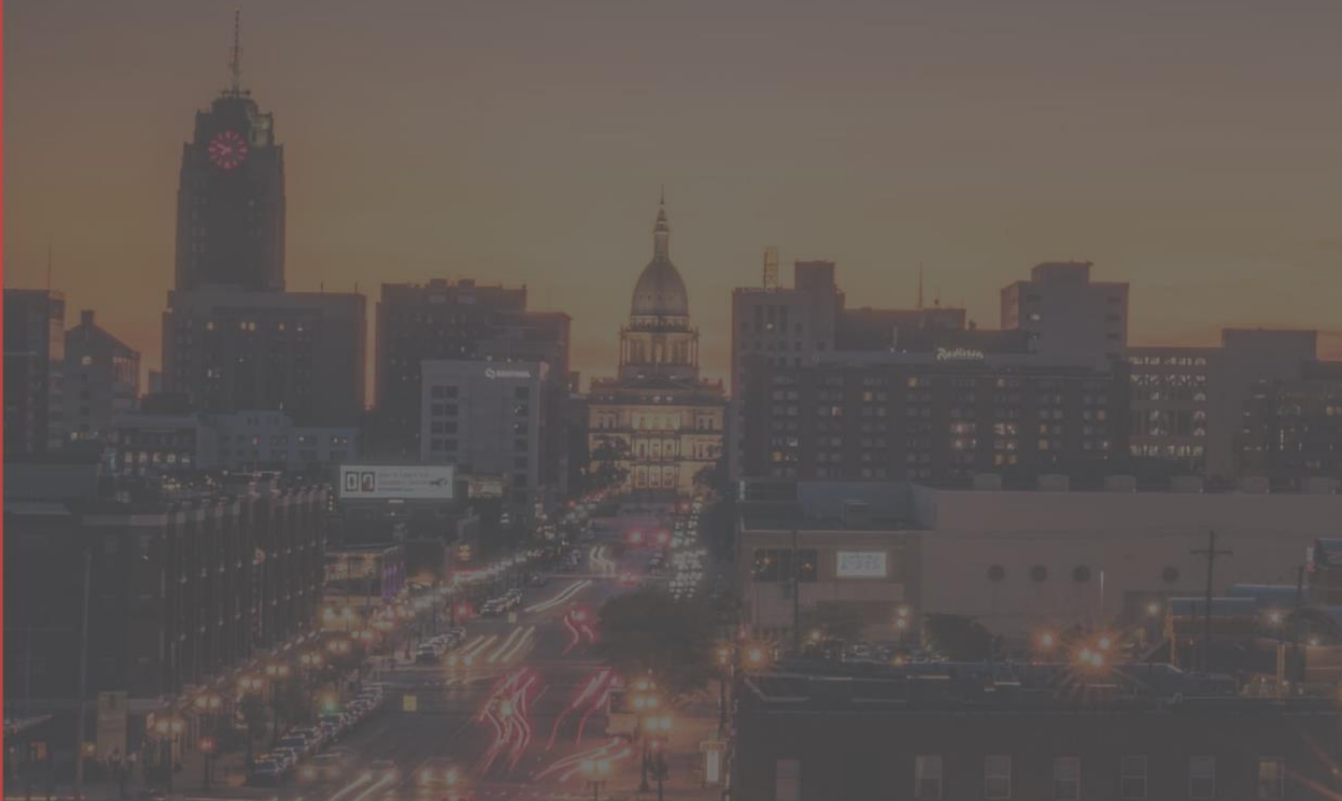


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Below are questions that have been raised with the City of Lansing regarding allowable and non-allowable actions under Governor Whitmer's "Stay at Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order 2020-42 and clarified by the State of Michigan Frequently Asked Questions. Also included are questions and answers regarding specific actions that the City of Lansing is taking to protect and assist residents, businesses and others in the City of Lansing.

*The answers to these questions are subject to change as circumstances change and directives from the Governor are updated.

ELECTION/VOTING

Is it too late to vote from home for this election?

There is **NO** election in May for the City of Lansing. The next elections are August 4 and November 3. If you have not already, you can request an absentee ballot for August and November by clicking [here](#).

HOUSEHOLD/VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Can I have a lawn service mow my lawn or do landscaping?

In nearly all cases, no. A business cannot designate workers to perform these services unless the service is necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of a residence. This is a narrow exception that only permits in-person work that is strictly necessary to address a circumstance that immediately and genuinely impairs the habitability of a home during the emergency; the exception will be satisfied, at most, rarely. Routine concerns, such as about longer grass increasing insects, pests, or allergies, do not qualify. Nor can workers leave the home to perform these services at business facilities: the exception applies only to residences. Any necessary in-person work that is permitted under the order must be done in accordance with the mitigation measures required under section 10 of the order. The order does not prohibit homeowners from tending to their own yards as they see fit. Mowing the lawn of an elderly neighbor is permissible.

Can I mow my own lawn?

Yes. The order does not prohibit homeowners from tending to their own yards as they see fit.

Is construction or home improvement allowed?

Some limited forms of construction are permissible, including construction to maintain and improve roads, bridges, telecommunications infrastructure, and public health infrastructure (such as the creation or expansion of hospitals or other medical facilities to provide or support the provision of necessary care during the emergency). Construction workers may also undertake projects that are necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operations of a residence during the emergency, including projects immediately necessary to restore the habitability of a residence. Any non-emergency maintenance or improvements to residences are not permitted. In addition, a business may designate a

construction firm under section 9(b) of the order to provide necessary support to the work of that business's critical infrastructure workers.

Construction projects that do not meet these criteria cannot be started or progressed while the order is in effect. This includes any such projects that were already underway at the time the order was issued. For those projects, workers are permitted on site only to carry out "minimum basic operations" under section 4(b) of the order. This work is limited to in-person tasks that are strictly necessary to preserve the current condition of the project while the order is in effect, such as putting in place temporary security and weatherization measures. All other in-person work on the project must cease until the restrictions of the order are lifted and normal operations resume.

All in-person construction work must be done in accordance with the mitigation measures required under section 10 of the order.

Full executive order can be found here:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/04/09/file_attachments/1423850/EO%202020-42.pdf

Do I still have to pay my rent, and can I be evicted?

You are responsible for your rent. Rent remains due unless the tenant and their landlord have worked out an alternative agreement. Eviction processes have been suspended until April 17, 2020, except under certain circumstances. If you are unable to pay your rent, please contact your landlord and call 2-1-1 to see what financial programs and assistance are available.

Will garbage and recycling still be collected?

Yes. These are allowable activities under the "Stay at Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order and Capital Area Recycling and Trash (CART) is continuing to do this. Bulk pickup is suspended, and people cannot leave trash or recycling outside their bins. To protect workers, trash and recycling carts will only be emptied into the truck by the arm of the truck.

Will yard waste still be collected?

Yard waste collection was originally scheduled to begin on April 13, 2020. The City of Lansing's Capital Area Recycling and Trash (CART) yard waste collection service will resume in two phases, following the latest "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order from Governor Gretchen Whitmer which now allows for yard waste collection. Drop-off service will be available for the remainder of April and curbside collection is scheduled to begin in May once City staffing levels can adequately accommodate trash, recycling and yard waste collection service.

Capital Area Recycling and Trash (CART) will begin yard waste collection in two phases.

1. Drop-off location for the remainder of April
2. Curbside collection to begin in May

City of Lansing residents can drop off their yard waste at Hammond Farms (5834 Michigan Rd., Dimondale 48821) on the following dates from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

Tuesday, April 21st Thursday, April 23rd Saturday, April 25th
Tuesday, April 28th Thursday, April 30th

*Additional dates may be added if curbside yard waste collection is delayed past early May.

Visit www.Lansingmi.gov/covidimpactscart for more information.

Will premise violations still be ticketed?

Premise officers have resumed outside premise inspections. They are adhering to proper safety protocol for themselves and for residents, by practicing social distancing and only doing necessary outdoor inspections. Enforcing our code compliance provisions will help our neighborhoods stay safe and healthy.

We understand there may be challenges for those who need to hire contractors to maintain houses, yards and landscapes, and we will work with any of those individuals to ensure proper compliance is met as soon as possible. Contact information for the Code/Premise Officer that issued the notice will be included in the letter. We ask that residents call the officer to request an extension if the COVID emergency prohibits them from resolving the violation. Residents can also call 517-483-4361, if they have any other questions.

Can I get my car fixed or get an oil change?

Yes.

HOW CAN I HELP?

I want to contribute dollars to help out. Who should I contribute to?

There are many organizations of need. The City of Lansing is working with many through the OneLansing fund (www.tinyurl.com/OneLansing). But people are certainly welcome to provide fundraising assistance to the many charitable institutions in Lansing.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

Can I volunteer and if so, what is the best way to do that?

The City of Lansing and Capital Area United Way have partnered to update the Serve Lansing volunteer portal for essential service needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you would like information about organizations looking for volunteers, visit www.serveLansing.com.

HUMAN RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Is the City of Lansing providing assistance to the homeless?

The City of Lansing remains committed to helping agencies provide services to the homeless and vulnerable citizens of Lansing. Lansing taxpayers pay 1.25% of our general fund towards Basic Human Needs assistance. Much of those city tax dollars go towards assisting the homeless for the Lansing region. On April 9th, the city of Lansing put out a press release committing \$20,000 for emergency relief in response to the COVID crisis. This funding was to help homeless shelters with immediate expenses. Also, the city is working with federal and state government to help with the COVID-19 response efforts regarding the homeless and fragilely housed in this community.

Will the City of Lansing still be assisting agencies through the Basic Human Needs fund?

Yes, the Basic Human Needs (1.25% of the general fund) ordinance is still in effect, and those with contracts will still receive funds for services provided.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Can I still report infrastructure problems (needed road repairs, tree down in the street, etc.)?

Yes, you can continue to report infrastructure problems by calling 517-483-4161 or through www.lansingmi.gov/lansingconnect.

PARKING

Are City Parking Ordinances still in effect?

The overnight parking ordinance is suspended. Some city garages are closed while the stay home order is in effect. Though payment to use many facilities is currently suspended, parking must still be done in a legal manner (for instance, no blocking fire hydrants, fire lanes, intersections/driveways, etc.; no parking in handicap parking without an appropriate plate or hangtag).

PARKS AND RECREATION

Are Lansing Parks and the Lansing River Trail still open?

Yes, both Lansing Parks and the Lansing River Trail are open. People should maintain 6 feet separation from others while using our parks and/or trail. The Executive Order allows for employees to work to maintain safe and sanitary public parks so as to allow for outdoor physical activity including walking, hiking, running, cycling, kayaking, canoeing, or other similar physical activity, as well as any comparable activity for those with limited mobility. Ranney Skate Park is the only park that has been closed due to

social distancing not being practiced. Many basketball rims have been removed from parks due to social distancing not being practiced. Tennis court nets have not yet been put up.

When are Parks and Recreation programs going to begin?

This will depend on whether there are any further restrictions after the “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order is lifted. It will also depend on how quickly we can schedule and staff the events. Registration for recreation programs continues at this time. Please visit parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

Will City of Lansing parks and cemeteries be mowed?

Not until the Governor's “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order expires. The City contracts-out mowing and is prohibited from utilizing a lawn service just like everyone else. The Executive Order allows for maintenance of safe and sanitary public parks so as to allow for outdoor physical activity includes walking, hiking, running, cycling, kayaking, canoeing, or other similar physical activity, as well as any comparable activity for those with limited mobility. Parks will be maintained to ensure these activities can happen.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Will the Lansing Police Department be ticketing for all of these activities that are being done in violation of the Governor’s “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order?

The Governor’s Executive Orders carry the weight of law. Lansing police will take reports of violators, preferably through the Mobile PD app or by phone through the non-emergency line at 517-483-4600. As officers are available, they will enforce the EO by dispersing those violating the order. If the violations continue, ignoring the warnings of law enforcement, then citations will be issued under the order. Lansing police are still getting regular calls, and now are receiving these complaints, so they are doing the best that they can. They are also practicing social distancing.

Are Police and Fire protection operating as normal?

Yes. We are taking steps to protect our first responders and they will respond to emergencies. While LPD will respond to crimes that put people in danger, they are asking that reports for non-violent misdemeanors be filed via the Mobile PD app or by phone to the non-emergency line at 517-483-4600 to minimize the in-person reporting. All reports will be acted upon and investigated as they would be normally.

Can police pull someone over if they suspect that the person is violating an Executive Order?

No.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

How do I participate in City Council or other public meetings?

All meetings are being held electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Michigan Executive Order 2020-48 provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings. Public meetings to be held by remote participation will be listed on the City's webpage at www.lansingmi.gov and will contain participation instructions for that meeting.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Is the City of Lansing providing assistance to our small businesses?

The City of Lansing has repurposed micro-loan dollars and other Economic Development Corporation dollars to help rescue small businesses as the first phase of our Small Business Recovery program. We are also looking at what federal dollars can be used to assist small businesses.

We are providing guidance on how small businesses can apply for Small Business Administration loans and CARES loans from their lenders and other available resources.

Information has been provided to local business groups and associations.

Visit www.lansingmi.gov/smallbusiness for more information.

TAXES

When are Income and property taxes due?

Property taxes are now past due. Anyone who has not paid their property taxes must contact the Ingham County Treasurer for payment options. The new deadline for filing a City of Lansing Income tax return is July 31, 2020.

How do I pay my City of Lansing Income Tax?

Income Tax Payments can be made:

- **In Person** - Payments can be dropped off into the Treasury and Income Tax drop box located on the Capital Avenue side of City Hall (124 W. Michigan Avenue)
- **By Mail** - Payments can be sent via regular mail to Lansing City Treasurer, P.O. Box 40752, Lansing, MI 48901.
- **Online** - Payments can be made online at www.lansingmi.gov/onlinepayment – You will need your file number or the last four digits of your social security number in order to complete this payment. Checking account payments and credit card payments are accepted.
- **Phone** - Credit card payments can be made by calling 1-855-474-4076. If assistance is needed to complete the process, call Point & Pay's Customer Service Department at 1-888-6064.

- **Payment Plans/Arrest Warrants/Settlement Agreements** - Call 517-483-4103.
- **Additional Questions** - Call 517-483-4115 for other income tax related information.

Is it too late to appeal my assessment to the local Board of Review?

Yes, the Board of Review ended their meetings on March 13, 2020. If you appealed to the local Board of Review, you should have received a notice of their decision and how to appeal their decision to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

54-A District Court

When will 54-A District Court re-open?

The court will re-open when the “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order is lifted and the Mayor re-opens City Hall. Please check the 54-A District Court website for the most current information at www.54adistrictcourt.com

What court services are being conducted during the “Stay at Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order?

In-custody arraignments, felony probable cause conferences and examinations preferably by Polycom video or Zoom conferencing.

Will my license be suspended or a warrant issued for not appearing in court or paying fines and costs?

No.

Can I pay on my court assessments during the closure?

Yes, via online <https://client.pointandpay.net/web/CityofLansing54-ADistrictCourtMI>; and US mail to 54A District Court, 124 W. Michigan Ave, 6th Fl. Lansing, MI 48933

Do I need to call-in for jury duty?

No.

Will I receive a new court/hearing date to appear?

Yes, as soon as city offices open to the public new court dates will be mailed to all parties.

How do I report for probation?

All reporting is being done via electronic means and all probation officer email addresses are on the court's website.

Can I still file civil pleadings?

Yes, by US mail and fax (517-483-7678).

Are some civil cases being held by Zoom?

Yes, some cases are going forward and will require you to appear by Zoom. You will receive notice in the mail of when to appear and instructions for appearing by Zoom.

Are writs of eviction being issued?

No.

OTHER

Should I still fill out my census?

Yes. This is just as crucial now as it has always been. Fill it out online. It takes 10 minutes. More information can be found at my2020census.gov.

Can I get a burn permit?

Burn permits have been suspended temporarily across the state. The City of Lansing has delayed issuance of new burn permits during this time. Recreational fires in the City of Lansing are allowed if you already have a valid burn permit.

Can people protest at the Capitol?

Yes. The Governor's Executive Order says persons may engage in expressive activities protected by the First Amendment within the state of Michigan, but must adhere to social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including remaining at least six feet from people from outside the person's household.

How do I stay updated on what is going on regarding this COVID emergency?

Visit the City of Lansing's Coronavirus website at www.lansingmi.gov/coronavirus and to sign up for our weekly email update.

Will I still be charged late fees?

Normal costs, fines and fees are still required to be paid. The City of Lansing is not charging late fees on anything that is due and has not been paid. But people are still responsible to pay for any costs or fees assessed.

**** The State of Michigan has answered many more questions about what can be done and what cannot. ****

For a more extensive list of answers, visit:

Governor Whitmer Executive Order 2020-42

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2020/04/09/file_attachments/1423850/EO%202020-42.pdf

State of Michigan EO 2020-42 FAQ

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-525278--,00.html

If you have any other questions, please contact the Mayor Schor's Office at

517-483-4141 or lansing.mayor@lansingmi.gov.